Isaiah 48

- Outline…
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40-48 - Comfort: people CAPTIVE in Babylon…
49-55 - Redemption: for a people CAPTIVE to

56-66 - Restoration: of and the world Babylon…
  - Having the CONTRAST between the LORD FALSE gods [Bel Nebo]
    LORD brought the JUDGEMENT on proud of Babylon…
    assumed they INVINCIBLE – but would make them the DUST…
    would become SLAVES [grinding – and be put to SHAME [naked]
  - Because was ANGRY with people of Israel – allowed Babylon conquered them…
    they went too far mercy] – so now would JUDGE

Answers…
  - Babylon PROUD – they considered in their what would happen in the END…

- Therefore – destruction would come upon them SUDDENLY – in a single DAY…
- Because they put their HOPE in all the WRONG places [sorceries]
- Causing them to believe NO one could see their WICKEDNESS…
- That is why they could NOT see their DESTRUCTION coming!

- **1st – Stubborn people… vs. 1-11**
  - 1st – Word of Jacob… vs. 1-2
    - Right words… vs. 1
      - Hear this O house of Jacob - who are called by the name of Israel.
      - And have come forth from the wellsprings of Judah.
      - Who swear by the name of the LORD and make mention of the God of Israel!
      - Having decreed the JUDGEMENT of Babylon…
      - The Lord turns back to His people – to the House of JACOB…
      - They had the right NAME – they were called Israel [prevailed] – **Genesis 32:28**
      - Unlike the other TRIBES that had long ago been scattered – **II Kings 17:18**
      - They had come from the ONE tribe [well] that remained – JUDAH [יְהוּדָה]
      - And gave their OATHS in the name of the LORD – remembering [hiphil] the God of Israel…
      - YET – the Lord had to command [imperative] them to LISTEN…
      - Because Israel was NOT doing well – we know that because God labeled them JACOB!
      - We often give Jacob a hard time – because he made a LOT of mistakes [lying – cheating]
      - But the KEY difference between ISRAEL – and JACOB…
      - Is JACOB relied upon his OWN strength – his OWN wisdom [not the Lord]
      - Therefore when Israel was depending on their own power – they were like JACOB!
    - Wrong actions… vs. 1
      - But not in truth or in righteousness!
      - As a result of trying to live RIGHT in their own STRENGTH…
      - The House of JACOB – had the right NAME – they had all the right WORDS…
      - But their ACTIONS did not match up with what they SAID…
      - Their words were NOT true [אֱמֶת] – because their lives were NOT right [צְדָקָה]
      - It is easy to SAY that we are a Christian – and that we LOVE Jesus…
      - But if we were SILENT – and did NOT say anything – what would people SEE…
      - Do our LIVES match our LIPS – or are living HYPOCRITICALLY!
      - **James 2:18** – "I will show you my faith by my good deeds."
    - Missing the point… vs. 2
      - For they call themselves after the holy city and lean on the God of Israel.
      - The LORD of hosts is His name!
      - Because although they LABELED [קָרָא] themselves by the HOLY [הַקֹּדֶשׁ] city [Jerusalem]
      - And they claimed to LEAN [niphal] on the God of Israel…
      - They did NOT live a life that reflected the name of the LORD of HOSTS [צְבָאוֹת]
      - When Peter was in the Garden of Gethsemane – Jesus told him he would FAIL…
      - But Peter SWORE – he would go to PRISON – even DIE for Jesus – **Luke 22:33**
      - Only to FALL – because he was depending on his own POWER to stand!
      - We can try as hard as we want to be a GOOD Christian…
      - Go to CHURCH on Sunday – have a BIBLE on our phone– say all the right WORDS…
      - But if we are NOT living in the POWER of God – we are JACOB…
      - And as a result we will NOT have VICTORY – we will FALL!
  - 2nd – Word of God… vs. 3-5

- Always true… vs. 3
  - I have declared the former things from the beginning.
  - They went forth from My mouth - and I caused them to hear it.
  - Suddenly I did them and they came to pass!
  - In CONTRAST to the words of JACOB that were NOT true…
  - The LORD declared what He was going to do from the BEGINNING…
  - His WORD went out of His MOUTH – and He made sure Israel heard it [hiphil]
  - And what He told them – then SUDDENLY [without warning] – He did what He said!
  - Because when God says something – it is going to happen…
  - His ACTIONS always follow and line up with His WORDS!
  - **Numbers 23:19** - "God is not a man so he does not lie. He is not human so he does not change his mind. Has he ever spoken and failed to act? Has he ever promised and not carried it through?" [NLT]
- Stubborn… vs. 4
  - Because I knew that you were obstinate.
  - Your neck was an iron sinew and your brow bronze!
  - Why did God tell Israel what He would do?
  - FIRST - because He KNEW exactly who Israel was [three things]
  - OBSTINATE [קָשֶׁה] – to be HARD [headed]
  - Their NECK was like IRON – they were stiff necked [unwilling to turn]
  - Their forehead was like BRONZE – because they were so STUBBORN!
  - When someone is outside for too long in the SUN – they start to get DARK…
  - But if they are really STUBBORN – they will end up getting BURNED [bronze]!
  - God KNOWS exactly who we are – and the answer is STUBBORN…
  - Even though we know we are WRONG – what we are doing does NOT work…
  - We will NOT stop – we will NOT turn away – we do NOT repent…
  - Even though it means that we end up HURTING ourselves – we get BURNED!
  - **Hebrews 3:7-8** – "Today if you will hear His voice - do not harden your hearts!"
- Useless idols… vs. 5
  - Even from the beginning I have declared it to you.
  - Before it came to pass I proclaimed it to you lest you should say: My idol has done them.
  - And my carved image and my molded image have commanded them!
  - Why did God declare [שָׁמַע] to them [hiphil] what He would do before it came to pass…
  - SECOND - lest Israel would say [future] – it was their IDOL that had DONE it…
  - They would rather give CREDIT to something they made – than the One who made them!
  - When things go RIGHT in life – where does the CREDIT go…
  - Was it the DEGREE we put on the wall – or the MONEY we put in the bank!
  - It is amazing how STUBBORNLY we believe that man-made IDOLS are the answer...
  - But we FORGET that NONE of them have power – they cannot SAVE…
  - And the WORD of God is always there to reminder us who CAN!

○ 3rd – New Word… vs. 6-8

- Hidden things… vs. 6-7
  - You have heard. See all this. And will you not declare it?
  - I have made you hear new things from this time.
  - Even hidden things and you did not know them.
  - They are created now and not from the beginning - before this day you have not heard them.
  - Lest you should say: Of course I knew them!

- Israel had HEARD [perfect] – they had SEEN [imperative]
- Yet they would NOT give [hiphil] the CREDIT to the LORD…
- Therefore – God would cause them [hiphil] to HEAR [שָׁמַע] something NEW…
- Something He had KEPT [נָצַר] up until this time – that they did NOT know [יָדַע]
- God would CREATE [בָּרָא] it NOW – before this DAY they no one had HEARD it [שָׁמַע]
- Lest the people could say – I already [perfect] KNEW that [יָדַע]
- When Korah rebelled against Moses – tried to overthrow his leadership…
- He felt confident that he was SAFE – but He did NOT know the LORD…
- God opened up the EARTH and swallowed him alive into HELL…
- So that ALL of Israel would KNOW – that the LORD has chosen Moses!
- **Numbers 16:30** – "If the LORD creates [בָּרָא] a new thing and the earth opens its mouth and swallows them up with all that belongs to them - and they go down alive into the pit - then you will understand [יָדַע] that these men have rejected the LORD."
- God is NOT predicable – He is NOT limited…
- He does NOT always do things the same way – so He can get our attention…
- He is more than willing to shake things up – catch us off guard…
- So that we KNOW that He is the one who is WORKING – He get all the CREDIT!

▪ God knows… vs. 8

- Surely you did not hear. Surely you did not know.
- Surely from long ago your ear was not opened.
- I knew that you would deal very treacherously - were called a transgressor from the womb!
- Moreover [גַּם] Israel did NOT listen [שָׁמַע]
- Moreover [גַּם] Israel did NOT understand [יָדַע]
- Moreover [גַּם] Israel from the beginning [מֵאָז] had NOT opened [piel] their EAR…
- But that did NOT surprise the LORD – He KNEW [יָדַע] who they were…
- From the moment they were born [womb] – they were SINNERS…
- Because they were TRANSGRESSORS [infinitive] – they would TRANSGRESS [imperfect]!
- The truth is we are STUBBORN – we are HARDHEADED – we are SINNERS…
- And we have ALWAYS been that way – from the moment we were BORN…
- We TRANSGRESS [rebel] against the Lord – because we are by nature REBELLIOUS…
- But that does NOT surprise God – He knows exactly who we are…
- Yet He still FIGHTS for us – because He still LOVES us…
- And what He is trying to get us to see – is our NEED for Him!

○ 4th – Tested by the Word… vs. 9-11

▪ Name of God… vs. 9

- For My names sake I will defer My anger - and for My praise I will restrain it from you.
- So that I do not cut you off!
- NOT because Israel had been faithful [they were stubbornly rebellious]
- But for the sake of His NAME – the Lord would HOLD [hiphil] His ANGER…
- ANGER [אַף] – from the word NOSE [nostrils flaring in frustration]
- For His PRAISE – He would MUZZLE [חָטַם] it [His anger] so He would NOT destroy them!
- When my daughter does NOT obey – when she is REBELLIOUS…
- It does NOT make me happy – it can get me UPSET [nose flaring]
- But she is MY child – she has MY name – so I am patient with her!
- God is NEVER happy when we are STUBBORN and REBELLIOUS…
- He does NOT take SIN lightly – it is UPSETTING to Him…

- But we are NOT strangers – we are His CHILDREN – and have His name [Christian]
- Therefore He is PATIENT with us – holds back His WRATH!

▪ Furnace of Affliction… vs. 10

- Behold I have refined you - but not as silver. I have tested you in the furnace of affliction!
- Therefore rather than be DESTROYED – the LORD was REFINING Israel…
- Their CAPTIVITY in Babylon was NOT meant to CUT them off…
- Their AFFLICTION [עֹנִי] – was how God was going to PURIFY them…
- But NOT like SILVER – which is purified because it has VALUE…
- The value of Israel was NOT in who they were – but because God had CHOSEN [בָּחַר] them!
- There is a DIFFERENCE between VALUE – and WORTH…
- Something might NOT be WORTH much – it cannot be SOLD for a lot of money…
- But it might still have great VALUE – to the person who owns it!
- What God desires for us to UNDERSTAND – is we are NOT righteous [in of ourselves]
- We are STUBBORN – and REBELLIOUS sinners - who deserve to be JUDGED…
- But because of who He is – the God of LOVE and GRACE – He still VALUES us…
- We are His PEARL [unclean] – that He is willing to do anything to get – **Matthew 13:46**

▪ Glory to God… vs. 11

- For My own sake - for My own sake I will do it. For how should My name be profaned?
- And I will not give My glory to another!
- God reiterated – for His own SAKE [2x for emphasis]
- He would NOT destroy Israel – instead He would REFINE them…
- Because [כִּי] He would NOT let His name [assumed] be POLLUTED [niphal]
- He would NOT let His GLORY [כָּבוֹד] be given to an IDOL!
- I was at a birthday the other day – and as the candle was blown out…
- Someone said to make a wish – the suggestion was for LOTS of money…
- Because the world teaches us – that is what SAVES us!
- But God is NOT going to let us give GLORY to anything else…
- He is going to make sure that EVERYTHING else in life FAILS us…
- Because for the sake of His Name – He wants us to KNOW…
- There is NO other answer – He is the ONLY one who can SAVE!

- **2nd – Gracious God… vs. 12-22**
  - 1st – Come Listen… vs. 12-15

▪ First and Last… vs. 12

- Listen to Me O Jacob - and Israel My called!
- The Lord having established that Israel did NOT deserve to be saved…
- Changes His tone – the Father turns to His children…
- He pleads with them to LISTEN [imperative] – not just because they were from Jacob…
- But because they were Israel [prevail] His CALLED [pual passive participle]
- CALLED – like a nickname for His beloved people!
- Like the warm words of a Father who has just had to scold his child…
- The Lord turns to Israel to remind them of His great LOVE for them!

▪ The Creator… vs. 12-13

- I am He - I am the First - I am also the Last.
- Indeed My hand has laid the foundation of the earth.
- My right hand has stretched out the heavens. When I call to them they stand up together!

- The wanted His CALLED to listen – as He reminded them of WHO He is…
- He is the FIRST – no one existed before the LORD – **Genesis 1:1**
- And He is the LAST – He will still be there at the END – **Revelation 22:21**
- Also [אַף] – He laid the foundations of the EARTH and spread out the HEAVENS [universe]
- When He calls to them – they all STAND at attention [obey]!
- Since God is the one who has SEEN everything [start to finish]
- Since God is the one who CREATED everything – **Colossians 1:16**
- Since ALL of creation pays attention when He speaks – should we not also LISTEN!

▪ The Plan… vs. 14-15

- All of you assemble yourselves and hear! Who among them has declared these things?
- The LORD loves him. He shall do His pleasure on Babylon.
- His arm shall be against the Chaldeans. I - even I have spoken.
- Yes I have called him - I have brought him - and his way will prosper!
- Therefore ALL of Israel must ASSEMBLE [imperative] – and LISTEN [imperative]
- Because what other IDOL among them had the same resumé…
- Who else could tell them exactly HOW they would be set FREE from Babylon…
- The LORD loved Cyrus [context] – because He would do [imperfect] what He wanted him to…
- Cyrus would conquer Babylon – his arm would be against the Chaldeans…
- Because the LORD [2 - [אֲנִי] for emphasis – had [first person] SPOKEN [piel]
- God called him [perfect] – made him GO [hiphil] – and would make him successful [hiphil]!
- Why do we come and LISTEN to the WORD of God…
- Because what God SAYS – is what will HAPPEN [no question]
- While EVERYTHING else in this life is far from certain…
- Whatever the plan of God is – that is exactly what we can be SURE will come to pass…
- The LORD speaks – the LORD calls – the LORD sends – the LORD brings success!

○ 2nd – Be Redeemed… vs. 16-17

▪ Not secret… vs. 16

- Come near to Me hear this: I have not spoken in secret from the beginning.
- From the time that it was - I was there.
- And now the Lord GOD and His Spirit have sent Me!
- The Lord tells Israel again to COME [imperative] and LISTEN [imperative]
- Because He was NOT done – His plan was NOT just to save them from Babylon…
- There was something much more important that He wanted to do…
- It was NOT a secret – He had been talking [piel] about it from the beginning…
- The Lord [אֲדֹנָי] who is GOD [יְהוִה] – would send TWO others…
- He would send ME [not Isaiah] – and He would send His SPIRIT [רוּחַ]
- Me is capitalized in NKJV [not in Hebrew] – but it fits the context!
- This is a KEY turning point in second half of the book of Isaiah…
- Up until this point the focus has been freeing Israel from their captivity in Babylon…
- But God did NOT just want to save Israel from physical captivity…
- They were CAPTIVES in Babylon because of their STUBBORN rebellion…
- He wanted to go ROOT of the problem - and save them from their captivity to SIN!
- The way He was going to do that was by SENDING two others [not Cyrus or Isaiah]
- He would send Jesus – the REDEEMER – who would DIE for our sins – **John 3:16**
- And He would send His SPIRIT – to give us the POWER to live for Him – **Acts 1:8**

▪ Way to go… vs. 17

- Thus says the LORD your Redeemer. The Holy One of Israel:
- I am the LORD your God who teaches you to profit. Who leads you by the way you should go!
- Thus says the LORD [יְהוָה] – the REDEEMER [גֹּאֲלֶךָ] – the HOLY One [קְדוֹשׁ]
- These TITLES unfold in scripture as the THREE parts of the Godhead [trinity]
- The FATHER [יְהוָה] - is the one who declares He is sovereign over all…
- The SON [גֹּאֲלֶךָ] - is the one who REDEEMS us from our SIN – **Titus 2:14**
- The SPIRIT [קְדוֹשׁ] – is the one who makes us HOLY [ἁγιασμός] – **II Thessalonians 2:13**
- And if we will LISTEN to the LORD who is our GOD [אֱלֹהֶיךָ]
- He will TEACH [piel] us how to have a BLESSED life – and which way we should GO!
- The reason we miss the blessing God desires is because we refuse to listen…
- To the God who is SOVEREIGN – He knows what we need to do…
- To the God who REDEEMS – He can take away all of our mistakes…
- To the God who makes us HOLY – He can give us the power to live Godly!

o 3rd – Cost of Disobedience… vs. 18-19

▪ Peace and righteousness… vs. 18

- Oh that you had heeded My commandments!
- Then your peace would have been like a river - your righteousness like the waves of the sea!
- The LORD reflects on what COULD have been…
- Oh that Israel had [perfect] paid ATTENTION [קָשַׁב] to His COMMANDMENTS…
- They would have had continual PEACE [שָׁלוֹם] – like [כַּ] a river that always flows…
- And never ending RIGHTEOUSNESS [צְדָקָה] – like [כַּ] the unending waves of the sea!
- Why do we NOT have PEACE – why are we struggling with SIN…
- Simply because we are NOT listening to the WORD of the LORD!

▪ Children… vs. 19

- Your descendants also would have been like the sand.
- And the offspring of your body like the grains of sand.
- His name would not have been cut off nor destroyed from before Me!
- Also – their DESCENDANTS would have been like [כַּ] SAND [innumerable]
- Their CHILDREN would have been like [כַּ] the SAND [enduring]
- His [singular] name would NOT have been CUT off before the LORD!
- Israel went into CAPTIVITY – but NOT all of them…
- Many fell by the SWORD – there were a LOT of mothers who lost their CHILDREN!
- The price for DISOBEDIENCE is not limited to our lives…
- Our choices also affect our KIDS – because they are following our EXAMPLE!

o 4th – Not too late… vs. 20-22

▪ Be free… vs. 20

- Go forth from Babylon! Flee from the Chaldeans!
- With a voice of singing declare - proclaim this - utter it to the end of the earth.
- Say: The LORD has redeemed His servant Jacob!
- It was TIME for Israel to be set FREE…
- They must GO [imperative] from Babylon – get AWAY [imperative] from the Chaldeans…
- As they left they must DECLARE [imperative] - and command others to LISTEN [imperative]
- SAYING this message [imperative] to the ends of the EARTH…
- The LORD had REDEEMED [גָּאַל] His servant JACOB [rebellious]!
- When Paul wrote about why the Lord saved him…
- He noted He was meant to be an EXAMPLE of GRACE…

- Because if God could save a sinner like him – He could save ANYONE!
- **I Timothy 1:16** – "I obtained mercy… as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him."
- When we finally chose to LISTEN to the WORD of the Lord…
- And God sets us FREE – both physically [current circumstances] and spiritually…
- We should be shouting out TESTIMONY for the whole world to hear…
- Because the same God who REDEEMED us – is the answer to everyone else!

▪ The Exodus… vs. 21

- And they did not thirst when He led them through the deserts.
- He caused the waters to flow from the rock for them.
- He also split the rock and the waters gushed out!
- As the people of Israel left the CAPTIVITY of Babylon…
- The Lord reminded them of their previous CAPTIVITY in Egypt…
- When they had to travel through the WILDERNESS – with no WATER…
- But they were NOT thirsty – because the LORD brought [hiphil] water from the ROCK…
- The ROCK was struck – and live giving water flowed out – **Exodus 17:6**
- Listening to the WORD of God does NOT mean life will be easy…
- Israel followed the Lord out of Egypt – into a DRY desert [no water]
- And when they came out of Babylon – life was still HARD – **Ezra 4:4**
- When we LISTEN to the LORD – it does not mean an easy life…
- What is means is we are NO longer alone in life…
- We have the SOVEREIGN Lord on our side – leading and guiding us…
- We have the ROCK of Jesus – overflowing with the WATER of LIFE!
- **I Corinthians 10:4** – "They drank of that spiritual Rock… and that Rock was Christ."

▪ The warning… vs. 22

- There is no peace - says the LORD - for the wicked!
- But although Israel was set FREE from the CAPTIVITY in Babylon…
- The LORD gave them a WARNING:
- There will NEVER [אִין] be PEACE [שָׁלוֹם] – for those who are WICKED [רָשָׁע]
- This concludes the FIRST second of this SECOND half of Isaiah [Isaiah 40-48]
- The people had been COMFORTED – God had set them FREE from Babylon…
- But the DEEPER issue was still there – the SIN that caused them to go into CAPTIVITY…
- And the answer for that was coming – the SERVANT of the LORD!